

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO AND THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

News You Can Use

No. 22 Spring 2002

***How to hire an arborist—
without regrets***

See page 4

Coordinator's Comments

By now you should have received a notice about the Idaho Community Trees Conference scheduled for June 21 & 22 at Boise State University in Boise. We have kept the conference fee to \$95 before June 1. We have also arranged for dormitory space at \$20 a night and the university cafeteria will be open for meals. This means that you should be able to go to the conference at a very reasonable cost. More importantly, there are some excellent speakers on the program talking about tree issues that face every Idaho community. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity and I look forward to meeting you at the conference.

Wow!! We had a bumper crop of Arbor Day grant applications, 80 to be exact. Unfortunately, US Bank had to drop out as our co-sponsor so we were only able to award 50 grants of \$150 each. This is the fifth year of the Arbor Day grant program and 121 communities have benefited from it. Six cities have been lucky every year and this year there are 15 first-time winners. It was sad to have to tell 30 communities that we were out of funds, but we

plan to have another co-sponsor by next year. I will talk more about that later in this column.

Time flies! The grant training workshops are already on the horizon. We plan to offer the workshops again this year on Idaho's Distance Learning Network. The tentative date is August 1 and that will also be the opening date of the grant application period. Applications will be due at the Coeur d'Alene office no later than September 27. Be sure to read the article on page 3 about changes in this year's grant program. Next month we will mail more detailed information on the grant training workshops.

Hopefully you found a brochure enclosed in this newsletter. Please take time to look at it and see if there is a company or an individual you think might be interested in helping build the Idaho Community Forestry Trust Account. All donations are welcome and all donations are deductible on both federal and state income taxes. If you know of a firm that might make a large contribution and you would like

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Gerry Bates

Pictured with Idaho Falls' new 90-inch tree spade is (left to right): Jennifer Strong, city horticulturist; Lee Washburn, urban logger; and Delbert Lloyd, city forester.

New Tree Spade for Idaho Falls

In many communities, citizens often wish to donate semi-mature, specimen quality trees for parks or streets after they have outgrown their planting site or are in the way of construction. This is a great way to prevent the waste of healthy trees and at the same time add trees to public property at reduced cost. Until last winter, Idaho Falls could only accommodate such offers through the use of an aging, 55-inch, trailer mounted tree spade. Now, thanks to regular budgeting into the city's account known as Merf (Municipal Equipment Replacement Fund), Idaho Falls is the proud owner of a 90-inch Big John D-Series spade on a GMC truck with a 7.2 liter Caterpillar Engine. The spade can move root balls up to 6 – 7 feet in diameter, allowing for the transplanting of trees up to 9 – 12 inches in diameter.

Idaho Falls also maintains its own nursery and manages some 25,000 park trees and 6,000 street trees. The new tree spade with its greater digging capacity and the ability to save more root mass will make an important contribution to the community forestry program and the survivability of large, transplanted trees.

Craig Foss, Idaho's former community forestry coordinator (left), extends the gratitude of the Idaho Department of Lands and the Idaho Community Forestry Council to Del Jaquish who is wrapping up the second of two stints as acting coordinator. Del still refuses to actually retire after his long career in both traditional and urban forestry. He will be working out of his home in Post Falls as an urban forestry consultant and will remain on the state Council. The appreciation plaque was presented to Del at the Council's January meeting in Boise.



Gerry Bates

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Idaho Community Trees is published four times a year by the College of Natural Resources, Department of Resource Recreation & Tourism, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844. Direct editorial matters to James R. Fazio, Editor: 208/885-7209; fax 208/885-6226; e-mail jfazio@uidaho.edu.

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(Comments continued)

one of us on the Idaho Community Forestry Council to make a presentation to them, please contact me and we will be there at your convenience. The Idaho Community Forestry Trust Account is the best way we have to increase grant funds and help increase the social, economic and environmental benefits of community trees in Idaho.

Finally, as you can see elsewhere on this page, we have hired a new community forestry coordinator. I have enjoyed serving as acting coordinator of this program for the past year. Community forestry has long term benefits that will enhance our great state long into the future. I have met many of you over the past few years and I appreciate your support for the greening of Idaho. Keep up the good work.

— Del Jaquish
Acting Community Forestry Coordinator

Meet a Council Member...

Rachel Flores of Caldwell brings a unique perspective to the Idaho Community Forestry Council. With a degree in theology, her interest in trees may seem like a stretch, but it isn't. In her work as transportation and facilities specialist for the Idaho Migrant Council, part of her job is to oversee the landscaping of more than a dozen Head Start and Early Childhood Education Center facilities that serve the needs of migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families throughout the state. She uses this opportunity to combine trees with education.



James R. Fazio

Rachel Flores at a tree-planting event held last year at the El Venadito Migrant Head Start School in Weiser.

"We are trying to teach kids the importance of trees and to respect the environment," says Rachel. She does this by making outdoor landscaping an extension of the indoor classroom. Even the curriculum is tailored to the environment surrounding the Head Start buildings.

Rachel, who came to Idaho from Los Angeles, has always loved the outdoors. Now she is sharing that love with the young people served by her organization. At the same time, her personal drive and enthusiasm are an inspiration to her colleagues on the Idaho Community Forestry Council.

New State Coordinator Named

David Stephenson has been selected to be the Idaho Community Forestry Coordinator. Dave leaves a regional coordinator's position in Wisconsin where he served a 12 county area, much of it rural, but containing nearly as many incorporated cities as the entire State of Idaho. He also has experience as an urban forestry consultant with a private forestry firm and as a plant health specialist for the State of Minnesota. He is a graduate from the University of Minnesota with a degree in forest management and is a member of the International Society of Arboriculture and the Society of Municipal Arborists. Dave is married and his wife, Annette Eberlein, is working on a master's degree in library science. Dave's starting date is May 6. He replaces Craig Foss who is now chief of IDL's Bureau of Forestry Assistance, and Del Jaquish who served as acting community forestry coordinator.

Changes in Grant Program

The grant training program scheduled for August 1 will cover all three categories of grants available through the IDL Community Forestry Program. Two of these have changes that may be of interest:

Community Transportation Enhancement grants are made in cooperation with the Idaho Transportation Department with a total of \$100,000 available. All Idaho communities are eligible. However, in the case of applications of equal merit and quality, Tree City USA communities will be given preference.

Program Development grants will continue to be available for projects leading to the establishment or improvement of community forestry at the programmatic or administrative level (inventories, management plans, technical assistance, etc.). \$25,000 is available in this category.

Tree Planting and Care is the new and expanded title for the purchase and planting of trees, and initial, one-time assistance with the removal of hazard and decadent trees or the pruning of established trees. This is to help small communities take one of the first and most expensive steps toward the improvement of their trees in parks and public rights-of-way. \$15,000 is available for this assistance.



James R. Fazio

This new portable exhibit is available on free loan to help promote community forestry in Idaho.

New Exhibit Available

A portable, tabletop exhibit has been purchased by the Community Forestry Program and is available on loan. The Velcro-backed visuals were selected to provide a broad overview of what is meant by community forestry and how the Idaho Department of Lands Community Forestry Program and the Idaho Community Forestry Council can assist. The materials, however, can be arranged to suit any emphasis. The exhibit rolls into a compact unit that fits into a case that can be shipped by public carrier or put into a van, pickup or station wagon. Possible uses might include display in a public building, fair, school or Arbor Day event. To schedule a loan, contact Joyce Jowdy at the Coeur d'Alene office (see masthead).

Calendar

June 21-22

Community Trees Conference, Boise State University. This is a conference for tree board members, city officials and anyone interested in community trees. Reduced registration fee of \$95 by June 1, 2002.

(IDL Community Forestry Coordinator, 800-432-4648 or communitytrees@idl.state.id.us)

June 26-27

Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council Meeting, in conjunction with the Association of Idaho Cities Conference, Pocatello. Tree City USA recognition will be made at the AIC banquet on June 28.

(IDL Community Forestry Coordinator, 800-432-4648 or communitytrees@idl.state.id.us)

July 28-31

International Society of Arboriculture Conference, Seattle, WA (PNW-ISA 503-874-8263 or info@pnwisa.org)

August 1

Grant Training Workshops on the Idaho Distance Learning Network.

Details will be mailed to all cities in Idaho. (IDL Community Forestry Coordinator, 800-432-4648 or communitytrees@idl.state.id.us)

September 27

Applications for Program Development, Tree Planting & Care, and Community Transportation Enhancement Grants due in the Coordinator's office by 4:00pm.

(IDL Community Forestry Coordinator, 800-432-4648 or communitytrees@idl.state.id.us)

October 7 - 8

Building With Trees National Conference, Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE (National Arbor Day Foundation, 402/474-5655 or www.arborday.org)

Upcoming Arborist Certification Exams

July 27, Seattle, Washington

Aug. 3, Bend, Oregon

Aug. 23, Salt Lake City, Utah

For information or to register, contact: Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217/355-9411, or email: info@pnwisa.org.





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Tree tip

Choose An Arborist Wisely

The bitterness of poor quality workmanship lingers long after the sweetness of a cheap price is forgotten. — Anonymous

Five ways to help assure quality care for your trees when hiring someone to do the work:

1. Ask if he/she is certified by the International Society of Arboriculture and ask to see a list of continuing education programs attended since becoming certified.
2. Deal only with individuals or companies with an established physical presence (office or phone book listing *with* address).
3. Require proof of personal and property liability insurance, workman's compensation and a license if one is required in your community (a good idea in all communities).
4. Ask for and check references of other local jobs.
5. Obtain several bids and have a written agreement specifying the work and price.

FOR MORE TIPS: Contact the IDL Community Forestry Program (See masthead) and request a free copy of the National Arbor Day Foundation's *Tree City USA Bulletin*, "How to Hire an Arborist."



Unlike this chap, a good arborist will have the welfare of your trees as a top priority — and the skills to do the job properly.